

THE NATIONAL ERA: WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 31, 1855.

PROSPECTUS

Birth Volume of The National Era,
Washington, D. C.
G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR;
JOHN O. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

The *National Era* is an uncompromising opponent of Slavery and the Slave power; an advocate of personal, civil, and religious liberty, without regard to race or creed; a foe to all sectional combinations to control the Slave-Box, while under the direction of perfidy or hypocrisy; a friend of Free-Statesmen; a Home-steader, and all reforms calculated to secure to Labor his just consideration, recompence, and political weight, and to Trade, its Natural Freedom, in virtue of which every man has a right to buy and sell in whatever country he pleases; believing that in right and individual judgment in all matters, whether of religion, or politics, and rejects the dogmas of positive orthodoxy and non-resistance in both Church and State; holding that no man who swears to support the Constitution of the United States can deliberately violate his own settled convictions of its meaning, without incurring the curse of God; and that no citizen can obey a human command which requires him to commit injustice, without immorality.

It regards Slavery, and the issues involved in it, as forming the great Political Question of the Day; taking the ground that Slavery, from its necessities, inhumanity, and habitat, is perfectly alien to the principles of Free-Statesmen, and unchangeably aggressive; that its workings can be measured only by a permanent system of meanness; that the Whig and Democratic Parties, not having been formed with a view to the issues raised by the Slave Interest, but to other ends, are yet backward. Still, judging from our correspondence, reaction in most quarters has commenced.

JUNE NUMBER OF FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE

The second number of *Facts for the People* will be mailed to subscribers this week. Its contents are as follows:

The Signs of the Times—The Duty of National—Conservatism—Ignoring the Slavery Question.

The Past—The Present—The Future—Re-organization of the Independent Democracy, State Sovereignty and Personal Rights.

Kansas—Nullification, Civil War.

The Petty Tyranny of the Slave Power.

Let orders be sent in promptly. The edition of the first number is large enough to secure complete files to all who wish them.

THE NEXT PERSIDENT—THE PROGRESS OF OPINION.

The *National Era* of this week has a long and elaborate article on the present state of parties, in which it reproves the *Evening Post* for having been a party to the Slave Power, and unchangeably aggressive; that its workings can be measured only by a permanent system of meanness; that the Whig and Democratic Parties, not having been formed with a view to the issues raised by the Slave Interest, but to other ends, are yet backward. Still, judging from our correspondence, reaction in most quarters has commenced.

The *National Era*, while occupying a decided position in politics, has amply provided in its Literary Miscellany and News Department for the various demands of the public, and of literature. Its Domestic and Foreign Correspondents are given every week in its columns; during the sessions of Congress, special attention is devoted to its movements; and it has secured the services of some of the most distinguished literary writers of the country.

The *Ninth Number* will commence on the 1st of January, 1856. Subscriptions should be sent in at once.

G. BAILEY, Washington, D. C.

TERMS.

Single copy one year—\$2. Single copy six months—\$1.50. Three copies one year—\$5. Five copies six months—\$3.00. Six copies one year—\$6.00. Payments always in advance.

Voluntary agents are entitled to retain 50 cents commission on each yearly, and 25 cents on each semi-annual, subscriber, *except in the case of the Post*.

A Club of five subscribers, at \$5, will entitle the person making it up to a copy for six months; a Club of ten, at \$10, a copy for one year. When a Club of subscribers has been forwarded, additions may be made to it, on the same terms, not necessary that the members of a Club should receive their Club at the same post office.

Send Money may be forwarded, by mail, at *any* risk. Large amounts may be remitted in drafts or certificates of deposit, to

G. BAILEY, Washington, D. C.

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

NEVER GIVE UP!

Since we suspended this paper, last year, we have had several calls for it, and for such documents as it would have contained. We have therefore decided to print the *National Era* again, in its former form, to re-occupy the size and form of Congressional documents, so that it may be bound into a neat, convenient volume.

The last volume was devoted chiefly to a compilation of old Southern documents on the Question of Slavery, more useful for reference, than for general distribution. It will be sent, post paid, to any who will, to the postmaster, specially adapted to the present condition of our cause, and yet worthy of preservation.

The Anti-Slavery Movement will be its leading idea.

It will be a publication, cheap, convenient, and suitable for extensive circulation, and suitable for the use of the Anti-Slavery Sentiment, which is particularly prevalent at the present time; when old party organizations are shattered, and when the Anti-Slavery Sentiment, although pervading the public mind, needs a well-defined, general organization, and a clear, distinct method, to fit it for the field of action.

To get out this Sentiment, and to aid in giving it a form and method adapted to the exigency, will be the two-fold object of *FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE*.

"FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE" will be issued the first week of every month, in royal octavo form, 16 pages, with a frontispiece, and a frontispiece to the *National Era* as shall be pecuniarily suitable for general distribution. It will be sent only in clubs, at the following rates per annum, twelve numbers constituting a volume:

Six copies to one address—\$1.00. Fourteen copies to one address—\$2.00. Fully copies to one address—\$3.00.

The Club will be a trifling—only half a cent a number, or six cents a year, paid in advance at the office where the paper is received.

Any person or club, by raising \$5, may in this way furnish monthly Anti-Slavery reading for a whole year, in the most royal octavo form, 16 pages, with a frontispiece, and a frontispiece to the *National Era* as shall be pecuniarily suitable for general distribution. It will be sent only in clubs, at the following rates per annum, twelve numbers constituting a volume:

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As we intend to begin the last day of May next, so that we will be but one month for canvassing, we trust all interested in the matter will see the necessity of prompt action.

IMPORTS.—The *National Era* is a monthly publication, and is intended to supply the West India Islands with onions and other kinds of vegetables; but now the tide has turned, and a stream of vegetables is pouring in upon us from the West Indies and all other parts of the world. We are certainly getting to be great eaters. With the finest soil and the best climate in the world for all kinds of vegetables, we are bound to be great eaters.

It is in constraining such remarks, repeated so emphatically, into a declaration in favor of General Houston as a candidate for the Presidency, that we are the only one who could be supported for the Presidency—certainly, that his position would be satisfactory to the North.

Some time subsequently, recurring to the subject, the same idea was presented in an editorial, alluding to the General as a candidate for the Presidency, and specifying his peculiar advantages:

"But the chief recommendation of the General, in our view, is his announcement of a *com-mon-sense* policy on the Slavery question—a policy which is truly *National* and the only one which the people of the country, North and South, can truly unite in."

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The Liberator.

Mr. BROWNE'S "Kraus," By A. B. Warner, author of "Dollars and Cents," "Mr. Rochester's Children," &c. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by R. Farmer, Philadelphia Avenue, Washington, D. C.

"Any Lodiroop," the genial and fanciful, throwing aside her "épée de plume," here presents us with a simple and pretty narrative, whose scenes are laid among the events of the war of 1812. The "brother's keeper" is a gentle, strong-hearted orphan girl, who, with the love of a sister and the trust of a Christian, clings to a dissipated brother, and succeeds at length in saving him from the threatening vortex.

Miss Warner's style, in this as in her former works, charms by a rare freshness. It delights us like the native talk of a child. All things live in her pages. Even the intangible "darkness hides in corners," at once—"then march with swift steps over the whole city." It is unfortunate that these poetical fancies are often wedged with something heavier than a pervading moral. Long quotations from the Scriptures, or from old divines, occur frequently, indisputably excellent in their places, but weeping upon this simple story, somewhat the appearance of a heavy plateracy upon a robe of gossamer. In this attempt to combine the all-importance with the entertainment, "Any Lodiroop" is less successful than her sister. In reading the "Wide, Wide World," and "Quicksilk," we find no chapter to "strip," though we often see the need of condensation; the story and its adjustments are inseparable. The evident desire to do good, however, which has caused this slight blemish, is in itself a recommendation to a young author. We doubt not that Miss Warner yet achieve much greater things.

HANDBOOK OF GERMAN LITERATURE. By G. J. Adler, A. M. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by R. Farmer, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Adler is Professor of German Literature in the University of the City of New York, and the author of several German textbooks. The present volume is intended to introduce the student who has mastered the rudiments of German, to an acquaintance with the great German writers, and to the more advanced student to a knowledge of the German language. The plan is, to select for his reading, not mere extracts, but a few literary productions of undisputed excellence, accompanied by critical notices and explanations. Thus the volume contains Schiller's "Maid of Orleans," Goethe's "Iphigenie in Tauris," Tieck's "Puss in Boots," and the "Xenia" by Goethe and Schiller.

A GRAMMAR OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE. By M. Schlesinger. Of the University of Virginia. Published and for sale above.

THE ELEMENTS OF ARITHMETIC. By George E. Waring, jun. Published and for sale above.

This is a book for young farmers. The author, a man devoted to the subjects, and qualified to speak advisedly, says it is not presented as a work of science, or a dry, chemical treatise; but as a plain statement of the more simple operations by which Nature produces many results, so common, that we are thoughtful of their origin.

THE PRACTICAL LAND DRAINTER. By B. Mercer. New York: C. M. Saxton & Co. For sale by R. Farmer, Washington, D. C.

In this concise treatise on Land Draining, the various methods of drainage are described, the principles on which they rest explained, and their merits compared.

PRACTICAL LANDSCAPE GARDENING. By G. M. Kerr, Cincinnati. Moore, Whistack, Keys, & Co. For sale by the Booksellers generally.

We shall every effort to enlighten and stimulate the public mind in relation to Landscape Gardening—an art which cannot be too assiduously cultivated. Mr. Kerr, with the advantages of his early education at the *Jardin des Plantes*, in Paris, understanding the subject both theoretically and practically, has furnished an instructive volume, which we hope, may have a wide circulation. The work is divided into two parts; the first devoted to an exposition of the Theory and Practice of Design and Taste, the second, to a Treatise on its adaptation to Pleasure Grounds, the Farm, Cemetery, &c. Some pretty illustrations embellish the volume.

The editor of the Detroit Advertiser has been permitted to publish the following private letter from C. McCrea, Esq., the man who shot Major Clark a few weeks since at Fort Leavenworth, K. T.:

FOOT LEAVENWORTH GUARD HOUSE, Kansas, May 8, 1855.

DEAR FRIENDS:—Before the news of your arrival, I had written to you, but had not exactly according to fact. The question of Slavery here has come to such a pitch of excitement that we are on the eve of a civil war, and it has been my misfortune to strike the first fatal blow at a meeting, relative to claims in the State of Kansas, and to the anti-slavery party.

My wound was afterwards shot and slightly wounded. Our party was as great on the ground as the Pro-Slavery, and I expect to get out of small boat.

Yours affectionately, C. McCrea.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE IN KANSAS.—Lynch Law. The Boston *Democrat* has the following account of another outrage in Kansas:

On the 17th instant, Mr. Phillips, a lawyer, was decapitated by the hands of the Missouri river, where he was suddenly seized and forced into a skiff, and carried across the river into Missouri;—thence he was taken seven miles to a village, where he was shot in the head, and his body, he died in about ten or twelve miles from the village, he was afterwards shot and slightly wounded. Our party was as great on the ground as the Pro-Slavery, and I expect to get out of small boat.

The Whig editor is in earnest in regarding such a people, were an impossibility. The work before us, in the main, truthful as to narrative, gives with the hues of romance. Especially in an account of the life and mission of Mahomet, and the early exploits of Islamism, does it give full play to his fancy. It can scarcely be said that to which is authentic, the marvellous events of tradition, accompanying the whole with scenic embellishments, so that his narrative is the complement of an epic.

The translator, having occasional imitation of French phraseology, and the manufacture of a few halting words, has done his work fairly. French syntax is adapted to French modes of thought; introduced in our language, it appears stilted and affected.

We have received only the first volume of the work. The other two, we presume, will soon appear.

WEEKLY REVIEW. April, 1855. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by R. Farmer, Philadelphia Avenue, Washington, D. C.

One of the most interesting articles in the present number is a dissertation on the "Dimensions of the United States." The writer has pretty thoroughly mastered the subject of administration in Great Britain, as might be expected, he is not always accurate in his view of the action of our Government, still, for a foreigner, he evinces a remarkably clear insight into our political system, and into the administration of political power, in the United States, as an example to all nations. Had he been told, when writing his article, that the expenditures of the Federal Government alone, to say nothing of those of the State Governments, amounted in 1855, to seventy-five millions of dollars, in a gross amount, he would have been greatly surprised.

The town of Leavenworth, Kansas Territory, is said to have 300 inhabitants, but it is located in the lands ceded by the Delaware Indians in trust to the United States for their benefit, and, therefore, not subject to entry. A member of the newly-elected Legislative Council of Kansas writes to the Washington *Advertiser* for information on the subject, including the State. The nomination of the American party was made privately, and kept secret; and at this time, the Whig caucus, shortly succeeding, its members appeared in such numbers as to force their own choice on the uninitiated Whigs. We recommend this controlling the meetings of other clubs, as a wise and responsible step.

Before the hotel they exhibited him; and then a negro was compelled to sell him to them, as well as the young, for whom it has been especially written. The name of "Howitt" is an sufficient endorsement to its excellent moral quality.

NOTES OF TRAVEL.—A. De Lamartine. Three volumes. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by R. Farmer, Philadelphia Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Lamartine has seen the country he writes about; visited its interior; studied its traditional history; observed its populations; put himself into communication with them. His original imagination is captivated by oriental life; his political views, as a Frenchman, ally him with the Turks, and dispose of him to regard them in the most favorable light. That such a man would write a cold, dry, matter-of-fact history, is an impossibility. The work before us, in the main, truthful as to narrative, gives with the hues of romance. Especially in an account of the life and mission of Mahomet, and the early exploits of Islamism, does it give full play to his fancy. It can scarcely be said that to which is authentic, the marvellous events of tradition, accompanying the whole with scenic embellishments, so that his narrative is the complement of an epic.

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He had been told, when writing his article, that the expenditures of the Federal Government alone, to say nothing of those of the State Governments, amounted in 1855, to seventy-five millions of dollars, in a gross amount, he would have been greatly surprised.

The writer of the article, however, took him into it, and, at the time he left the army, was at the head of the engineer corps.

It is uncertain how far the new party in this State will go, to the north, to the south, to the west, to the east, and to the south.

After obtaining several hours in this manner, repeatedly telling him that he would not leave the Territory, or give them his promise in writing that he would leave, they would not let him go. He had in about ten or twelve miles from the village, he was shot and severely wounded. Our party was as great on the ground as the Pro-Slavery, and I expect to get out of small boat.

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